



PONTIFICIUM CONSILIUM  
DE CULTURA

Press Release

**Meeting in preparation for the First World Conference on Faith and Sport, due in the Vatican in the Fall of 2016.**

Never before has such a conference been organized at this level, so Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi has called athletes, theologians, sports-marketing, media and business experts to get together to discuss the Conference's focus and content.

On Thursday and Friday September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Cardinals Gianfranco Ravasi, Tarcisio Bertone, and George Pell welcomed some key authorities in the world of faith and sport into the Vatican in order to discuss and prepare the focus of the first in the proposed series of World Conferences on Faith and Sport.

A total of 25 experts were invited to share their expertise: David Eades, professor Robert Ellis, Valerie Ackerman, Sheik Ahmad Al-Sabah, Luca di Montezemolo, Andrew Craig, Thomas D'Aquino, Prince Feisal Al Hussein of Jordan, Francesco Fulci, Emilio Galli-Zugaro, Patrick Hickey, Chris Lang, Giovanni Malagò, Fiona May, Scott McCune, Erwin McManus, Bernard Mullin, Luca Pancalli, Keith Pelley, Mario Pescante, Njeri Rionge, Naseema Sparks, Timothy Shriver, Peter White, and Christian Deuringer.

Well-known BBC News anchorman, David Eades, moderated the conversation, taking the main points and ideas and presenting them to the group to reach a consensus.

An Oxford academic and theologian, Robert Ellis, is preparing a full report.

In his opening address Cardinal Ravasi outlined four major points on the relationship between faith and sports, namely: the body, education, ethics, and play. During the meeting the members touched on some key elements they believed ought to be included in the 2016 Conference, such as coaching, reaching the youth, social media, the inclusion of all people and breaking down of barriers (gender, disabilities, and race), a common value framework upon which people of different faiths can build their contributions, the altruism and gratuity that is essential to both faith and sport, the sense of community and service to others (especially the poor and vulnerable), etc.

This meeting was held in the Casina Pio IV within Vatican City, a stronghold of 16<sup>th</sup> century art finished in 1561. At the end of the conference, the guests were invited to a gala dinner in the Apostolic Palace.

For more information and photographs visit: [www.cultura.va](http://www.cultura.va)  
Contact: Mons. Sanchez de Toca y Alameda : [sport@cultura.va](mailto:sport@cultura.va) Tel. 0669893811